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HOUSE LEAKS

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NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE WOUND UP THE SECOND PHASE OF ITS INVESTIGATION INTO HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE LEAKS WITH TESTIMONY FROM A WOMAN WHO SUCCESSFULLY GUARDED MORE THAN 77,000 SECRET INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTS FOR THE PANEL.

JACQUELINE HESS WAS PRAISED BY THE ETHICS COMMITTEE AFTER HER TESTIMONY.

SHE SAID THAT BY THE TIME THE INTELLIGENCE PANEL ENDED ITS PROBE OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, SHE HAD MORE THAN 77,000 TOP-SECRET DOCUMENTS UNDER HER CONTROL. THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE WAS LEAKED TO CBS REPORTER DANIEL SCHORR, BUT MS. HESS DID NOT LOSE TRACK OF A SINGLE ONE OF HER DOCUMENTS.

SHE DESCRIBED A HARRIED ATMOSPHERE AT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE DURING ITS INVESTIGATIONS, DURING WHICH SHE SAID 30 PEOPLE TOOK FIVE MONTHS TO DO A JOB THAT COULD HAVE TAKEN 300 PEOPLE FIVE YEARS.

SHE SAID NONE OF THE STAFF PEOPLE HAD A BACKGROUND IN SECURITY MATTERS WHEN SHE ASSUMED HER JOB. SHE SAID SHE GOT A THREE-HOUR BRIEFING ON SECURITY TACTICS FROM THE CIA, BUT SHE SAID SHE HAD ESSENTIALLY TO RELY ON THE TRUST OF THE STAFF TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY.

MS. HESS, WHO PREFERS THE MS. DESIGNATION, DID NOT HAVE CONTROL OF PROTECTING THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

SHE SAID STAFF DIRECTOR SEARLE FIELDS HIMSELF ASSUMED CONTROL OVER SECURITY FOR THE FINAL DOCUMENT.

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, MS. HESS SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY COPIES OF DOCUMENTS COULD HAVE BEEN DUPLICATED ON THE XEROX MACHINE BECAUSE SHE SAID A LOG FOR REGISTERING THE NUMBER OF COPIES WAS ''NOT RELIGIOUSLY ADHERED TO.''

SHE ALSO SAID SHE HAD SEEN REPORTERS WHO REGULARLY COVERED THE COMMITTEE, INCLUDING SCHORR, WITHIN THE STAFF QUARTERS.

BUT IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, SHE SAID SHE DID NOT REMEMBER WHETHER THIS WOULD HAVE OCCURRED ON THE WEEKEND OF JAN. 23-25 WHEN SCHORR SAYS HE GOT HIS COPY OF THE SECRET REPORT.

THE COMMITTEE'S $150,000 INVESTIGATION SO FAR HAS PRODUCED NO CONFESSION OF WHO LEAKED THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO SCHORR. AFTER THE FIRST STAGE OF THE INVESTIGATION, COMMITTEE STAFFERS SAID THEY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ISOLATE HIS SOURCE. AFTER TWO WEEKS OF PUBLIC HEARINGS, THE COMMITTEE STILL APPEARED UNABLE TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE.

CHAIRMAN JOHN FLYNT, D-GA., RECESSED THE HEARINGS INDEFINITELY THURSDAY AND WOULD NOT SAY IF HE PLANNED ANY MORE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

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